

JUNGLE
ACTION

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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JUNGLE ACTION™ FEATURING:

THE **BLACK PANTHER**™

SLAUGHTER IN THE STREETS!



Action
IN THE HEART
OF A TEEMING
CITY--AS ONLY
MIGHTY MARVEL
CAN PRESENT
IT!

BUCKLEY-MCKINIS

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE PANTHER VS. THE KLAN PART TWO

AND ALL
SALES ARE...
FINAL!

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YOU'RE ATTRACTING ATTENTION.

IT WAS HARD NOT TO NOTICE.

I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE PUT ON SOME CIVILIAN CLOTHES TO COME TO TOWN.

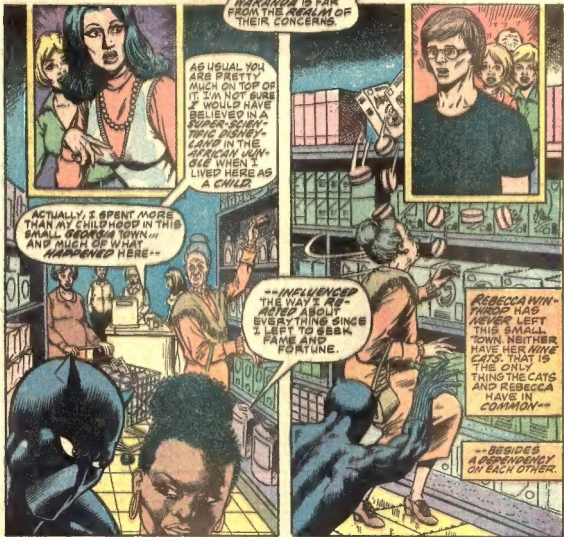
THEY DO NOT MASK THEIR CURIOSITY UNTIL I TURN TO LOOK AT THEM--

--AND THEN THEY AVERT THEIR GAZE. BUSILY EYEBING EVERYTHING BUT ME WITH AN EMBARRASSED SHAME NOT QUITE HIDDEN IN THEIR EYES!

YOU'RE A CELEBRITY OR A SIDE-SHOW ATTRACTION. I THINK THE JURY IS STILL OUT AS TO WHICH.

OR A THREAT, COULD BE A THIRD ALTERNATIVE. I WOULDN'T IMAGINE MANY OF THEM ARE AWARE THAT A BLACK PANTHER REALLY EXISTS.

WAKANDA IS FAR FROM THE REALM OF THEIR CONCERNS.



AS USUAL YOU ARE PRETTY MUCH ON TOP OF IT. I'M NOT SURE I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IN A SUPER-SCIENTIFIC DISNEYLAND IN THE AFRICAN JUNGLE WHEN I LIVED HERE AS A CHILD.

ACTUALLY, I SPENT MORE THAN MY CHILDHOOD IN THIS SMALL GEORGIA TOWN... AND MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENED HERE--

--INFLUENCED THE WAY I RE-ACTED ABOUT EVERYTHING SINCE I LEFT TO SEEK FAME AND FORTUNE.

REBECCA WIN-THROP HAS NEVER LEFT THIS SMALL TOWN. NEITHER HAVE HER NINE CATS. THAT IS THE ONLY THING THE CATS AND REBECCA HAVE IN COMMON--

--BESIDES A DEPENDENCY ON EACH OTHER.



NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, HERBERT... WHILE THAT AGENT FOR SATAN IS BUSY. THE REVEREND HAS SPOKEN... YOU'VE HEARD HIS WORDS.

YEAH, BUT, ROLAND... DO I HAFTA SAY ALL THEM TERRIBLE THINGS TO HER?

YOU WILL SAY THEM... FOR IT IS THE WAY TO END ALL SUCH SLURS.



APPREHENSIVELY, A HAND REACHES OUT...

...HOLDING THE KNIFE, SHAKING EVER SO SLIGHTLY...



--BUT THEN THE LONG IN-DOCTRINATION SESSIONS REPEATING THEIR LESSONS IN HIS MIND, HERBERT STRIKES VIOLENTLY.

AND THE MOVEMENTS DO NOT SUGGEST ANY HESITATION.

I GOT A MESSAGE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, MONICA LYNNE.



ALL YOU BETTER KEEP YOUR MOUTHS CLOSED TO THE NEWS-PAPERS, YOU GOT THAT? AND THE LAW.

PLEA... PLEASE, TAKE THE KNIFE AWAY.

PLEASE

YOU DON'T KEEP QUIET... WE ARE GOIN' TO DRAW A LINE RIGHT ACROSS YOUR THROAT...

BE A SHAME TO SEE SUCH PRETTY LIPS SPITTIN' BLOOD... BUT YOU START TALKIN' ABOUT THE ALAN... AN' THEM INCIDENTS THE OTHER NIGHT AT THE CEMETERY WHERE YOUR SISTER LIES ROTTING IN HER GRAVE--



--AND ALL OF YOU WILL END UP LYING BESIDE HER. GOT THAT?

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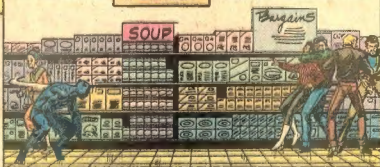
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HE IS THE BLACK CAT, ALERT TO A THREAT IN A DOMAIN WHERE HE SHOULD NOT SUSPECT A THREAT.

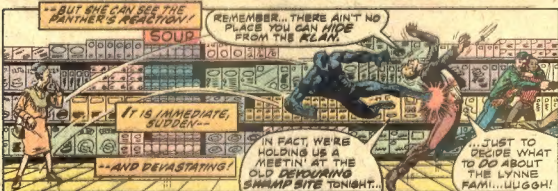


REBECCA WINTHROP WATCHES HIM WHIRL WITH FELINE GRACE. SHE CANNOT SEE THE AMBER EYES THAT SEEK THE SOURCE OF DANGER--



-- BUT SHE CAN SEE THE PANTHER'S REACTION!

REMEMBER... THERE AIN'T NO PLACE YOU CAN HIDE FROM THE KLAN.

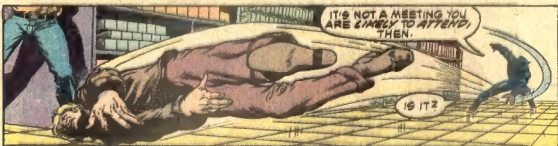


IT IS IMMEDIATE, SUDDEN--

--AND DEVASTATING!

IN FACT, WE'RE HOLDING US A MEETIN' AT THE OLD DEVOURING SWAMP SITE TONIGHT...

...JUST TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE LYNNE FAMI... UUGH!



IT'S NOT A MEETING YOU ARE LIKELY TO ATTEND, THEN.

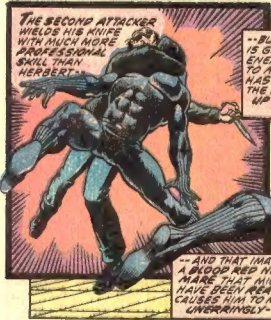
IS IT?



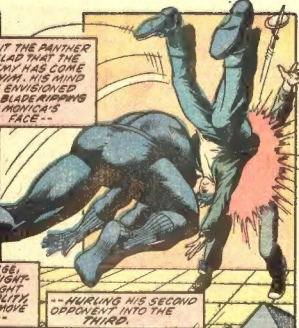
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

I HOPE THIS ISN'T A PURCHASE. I HAVEN'T EVEN FIGURED OUT WHAT'S A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE ITEM OR FOOD STAMP ITEM YET.



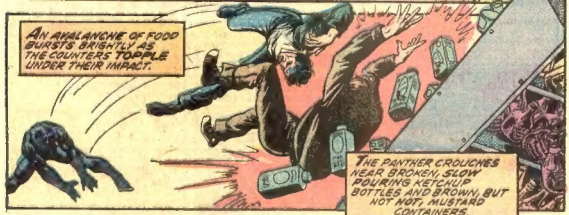
THE SECOND ATTACKER
WIELDS HIS KNIFE
WITH MUCH MORE
PROFESSIONAL
SKILL THAN
HERBERT--



--BUT THE PANTHER
IS GLAD THAT THE
ENEMY HAS COME
TO HIM. HIS MIND
HAS ENVISIONED
THE BLADE RIPPING
UP MONICA'S
FACE--

--AND THAT IMAGE,
A BLOOD-RED NIGHT-
MARE THAT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN REALITY,
CAUSES HIM TO MOVE
UNERRINGLY--

--HURLING HIS SECOND
OPPONENT INTO THE
THIRD.



AN AVALANCHE OF FOOD
BURSTS BRIGHTLY AS
THE COUNTERS TOPPLE
UNDER THEIR IMPACT.

THE PANTHER CROUCHS
NEAR BROKEN, SLOW
POURING KETCHUP
BOTTLES AND BROWN,
BUT NOT HOT, MUSTARD
CONTAINERS.



SIRENS REACH THE SCENE
AS THE QUICKER-PICKER-
UPPER DISPOSABLE
TOWELS FAIL TO ADOPT
THE SPREADING STAINS.



ALRIGHT,
FANCY DAN,
YOU KEEP YOUR-
SELF NICE
AND STILL... AN'
DON'T MAKE ANY
QUICK MOVES!

BUT THEN, ISN'T EVERY-
THING DISPOSABLE
THESE DAYS?

TOYS?

CARS?

BUILDINGS?

HUMAN
RELATIONSHIPS?

P.O. Box 1102-Flushing, N.Y. 11354

WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF.

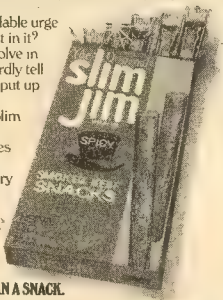
Every now and then, do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

Are you tired of sugar-sweet snacks that dissolve in your mouth, and crunchy snacks that you can hardly tell you ate, and all the other boring stuff you have to put up with, every day?

Well, take heart. And, while you're at it, take Slim Jim along in your pocket.

Slim Jim is a chewy, all-meat snack that comes in five very un-boring flavors. Mild, spicy, salami, bacon, and pizza. And you can find it at the grocery store. Or at a lot of the places where you've been getting those sissy snacks.

You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.



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THE PANTHER STARES DOWN THE LENGTH OF NEON-LIGHTED ROOM AND SEES ONE OF HIS ATTACKERS STARTING FOR THE ELECTRONIC DOORWAYS.

HE IS NOT SURE WHICH GROUP THE MAN REPRESENTS: THE KLAN, OR THE DRAGON CIRCLE SOLDIERS.

HEY!

I JUST TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE. NOT A MUSCLE!

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER.

YOUR QUESTIONS WOULD BE BETTER ASKED TO THE MEN WHO STARTED THIS CONFLICT.

I AM GOING AFTER THEM--NOW!

YOU AIN'T GOING NOWHERE--

--'AN YOU AIN'T GONNA HURT NOBODY ELSE YOU AIN'T BEEN LISTENIN' TOO GOOD, MISTER, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!

THE PANTHER'S EYES BURN FROM THE NEON LIGHTS, AND IT SLOWS HIM DOWN SO THAT HE CANNOT COMPLETELY AVOID THE THRUSTING PISTOL.

THE MUGGY SEPTEMBER DAY ERUPTS WITH SOUND, DROWNING OUT THE QUIET BACKGROUND MUSIC FROM THE STORE SPEAKERS

THEY SEE HIM AS A THREAT, ATTACKING THEIR OWN, AND THEY GATHER AROUND HIM WITH VINDICTIVE FURY.

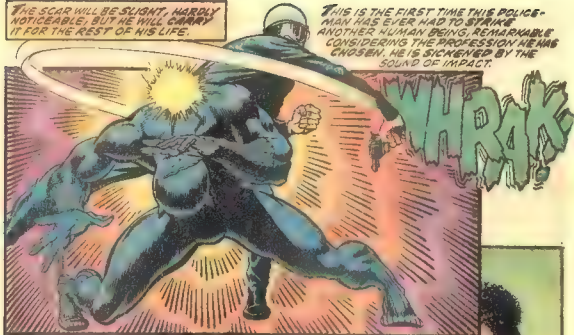
AFTER ALL, IT COULD HAVE BEEN THEM THAT HE ATTACKED.

I KNEW YOU WAS UP TO NO GOOD WHEN YOU CAME LEAP-IN' AT ME SCARE A BODY HALF-TO-DEATH!

REBECCA WINTHROP SLASHES AT HIM WITH THE CAN OF CATFOOD. THE PANTHER DOES NOT LAUGH. IT TEARS HIS COSTUME AT THE SCALP, RIPS OPEN THE FLESH ABOVE THE EYEBROW.

THE SCAR WILL BE SLIGHT, HARDLY NOTICEABLE, BUT HE WILL CARRY IT FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

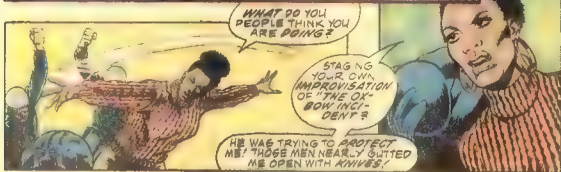
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS POLICEMAN HAS EVER HAD TO STRIKE ANOTHER HUMAN BEING, REMARKABLE CONSIDERING THE PROFESSION HE HAS CHOSEN. HE IS SICKENED BY THE SOUND OF IMPACT.



WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE THINK YOU ARE DOING?

STAGING YOUR OWN IMPROVISATION OF "THE OK-BOW INCIDENT"?

HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT ME! THOSE MEN NEARLY GUTTED ME OPEN WITH KNIVES!



SHERIFF RODERICK TATE PULLS TO A SCREECHING STOP IN THE FRONT OF THE SUPER-MARKET!



HIS SHORT CLOTHES UNCOMFORTABLY TO HIS BACK, AND HE WONDERS HOW THE DEVIL THEY MAKE RECKLESS DRIVING LOOK SO EASY IN THOSE TELEVISION SHOWS.

INSIDE, HIS FIRST SIGHT IS OF THE PANTHER AND MONICA LYNNE... AND HE WINCES

SHERIFF RODERICK TATE WOULD LIKE TO START HIS OWN RAMPAGE. TONIGHT, HE THINKS, WILL PROBABLY BE A GOOD NIGHT TO GO OUT AND GET RIP-ROARING DRUNK

IF ONLY TO FORGET WHAT THE REST OF THIS DAY HAS BEEN LIKE.



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HMM... I WONDER IF THE COLOR WOULD CLASH WITH RUDOLPH'S NOSE IF I GOT HIM A HULK T-SHIRT TO WEAR?



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I KNOW WHO I AM...
BUT I GOT MY DOUBT
ABOUT YOU GUYS.

YOU BEEN
KEEPIN' THIS
TOWN ALIVE, MISS
MONICA. IT'S NOT
USUALLY JUMPIN'
QUITE THIS MUCH.

Y'KNOW, IF YOU
DRESSED UP ALL
IN *AWA*'STEADA
BLUE, THEY COULD
PAIR YOU WITH
PETER SELLERS.
BE A NATURAL!

IT'S BEEN
MORE DEADLY
THAN LIVELY FOR
ME, TATE. THIS IS
THE SECOND ATTEMPT
ON MY LIFE SINCE I
HAVE COME HOME.

DON'T TAKE IT OUT
ON ALL OF US, MA'AM.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY ALL
OUR FAULTS. HEY,
WHERE'RE YOU
OFF TO?

**MORE
THAN I
CAME FOR.**

YOU ARE
ANGRIER
THAN I
AM."

I DON'T
LIKE THE WAY
THEY REACTED.
I DIDN'T LIKE
THAT HOSTIL-
ITY TOWARD
ME WHEN I WAS
IN YOUR
HOMELAND--

PEER INTO
OBLIVION...UNTIL
OBLIVION COMES
TO CLAIM YOU!

--AND I DON'T
LIKE IT ANY
BETTER HERE.

THE STORE EMPLOYEES ARE NO HAPPIER. THE SPILT FOOD COMBINES... CONVEYERS... A RECIPE RUN AMOK... THE FLOOR COVERED WITH HUMPTY DUMPTY REMAINS THAT HAVE NO SOLID PARTS



THE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS LOVE IT. ESPECIALLY THE SOMBER ATTIRE OF THE PANTHER.



WELL, WELL IF IT ISN'T KEVIN TRUEBLOOD OF THE GEORGIA SUN, FIGHTING REPORTER IN SHINING ARMOR.

THE ARMOR'S KIND OF TARNISHED, ROD. DON'T MUCH KNOW WHAT I BELIEVE IN THESE DAYS

HELLO, KEVIN!

ONE THING'S FOR SURE, YOU'LL MAKE EXCITING FRONT PAGE COPY

I WOULD BE MORE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE DRAGON CIRCLE SOLDIERS YOU HELPED MON CA AND I BRING TO SHERIFF TATE'S HEADQUARTERS A FEW NIGHTS BACK.

MORE BAD NEWS, I'M AFRAID. JEDIMAN THORPE AND THE OTHER MEMBERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON BAIL.



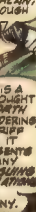
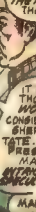
YOUR CURRENCY DOES SEEM TO PRO-CURE ALMOST ANYTHING, SHERIFF TATE

IT WAS ALL DONE ACCORDING TO THE LAW. YOU GOT MY WORD ON THAT. NOT A THING I COULD DO. SOMEBODY WITH A LOT OF MONEY IS BEHIND THIS DRAGON CIRCLE.

THESE PUNKS DIDN'T SWER AT US WHEN THEY LEFT THE WAY MOSTA THEM WOULD. THEY'RE DEDICATED TO SOMETHING ALL RIGHT

I DON'T THINK THE MEN WHO ATTACKED MONICA TODAY HAD ANY AFFILIATION WITH THE KLAN EITHER!

I WOULD NOT SAY THEY HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE KLAN, THOUGH



IT IS A THOUGHT WORTH CONSIDERING, SHERIFF TATE. IT PRESENTS MANY ENTICING SPECULATIONS. MANY.

NIGHTFALL
ARRIVES
GENTLY THE
PANTHER
AND MONICA
WATCH IT
FADE BE-
HIND THE
DESERTED
PLANTATION

MONICA SPEAKS PENSIVELY, WON-
DERING WHY SHE NOW HAS MORE
MEMORIES OF HER SISTER ANGELA,
THAN WHILE SHE WAS STANDING AT
HER SISTER'S GRAVESITE

I NEVER KNEW
WHAT ANGELA USED
TO DREAM ABOUT
WHEN WE CAME HERE
NEVER MATTERED TO
ME BEFORE.

FOR
SOME
REASON IT
DOES NOW.

I USED
TO SEE MYSELF
AS RULING THIS
PLACE WHEN AN-
GELA AND I CAME
HERE AS KIDS.

I'D WEAR GOWNS
AND WOULD BE INTRO-
DUCED TO PEOPLE EQUALLY AS ELOQUENT.

YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER
SAY SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE...
KILLED HERSELF

SUPPOSED TO
HAVE SHOT HER-
SELF IN THE HEAD,
T'CHALLA DON'T TRY
TO SOFTEN IT!

AT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE
MORNING SHE WAS SUP-
POSED TO HAVE ENTERED
THE REAL ESTATE OF-
FICES OF HER EMPLOY-
ER AMBROSE ELLIS--

--AND
PULLED
THE
TRIGGER
THAT
BLEW
HER
BRAS
OUT!

REMEMBERING US HERE AS KIDS, TO LIKE
TO SAY IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. KEVIN THINKS
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MURDER, SINCE
SHE HAD CONTACTED HIM
ABOUT A POSSIBLE LAND
MANIPULATION DEAL--

--THAT MIGHT
HAVE INVOLVED
THE KLAN!

IN 1968, SHE ONCE WROTE A LETTER
FROM COLLEGE, SAYING SHE HATED
GUNS

A STUDENT SHE KNEW
WAS KILLED IN A PROTEST
RIOT I REMEMBER WHAT SHE
WROTE, "EVERYBODY WAS
EITHER SCARED OR HATEFUL...
AND WE ARE ALL DYING
BECAUSE OF IT."

HOLD ME,
T'CHALLA, I
NEED YOU!

WE WILL FIND OUT WHAT
REALLY HAPPENED IT WILL
NOT EASE THE HURT AND
LOSS MUCH... KNOWLEDGE
SELDOM DOES... BUT AT
LEAST WE WILL KNOW THE
TRUTH OF IT!

TRUTH? RIGHT NOW
I NEED YOU MORE
THAN THE TRUTH!

BUT DON'T PROM-
ISE IT WILL LAST
FOREVER--

--I WON'T BE
ABLE TO TAKE
IT IF IT
DOESN'T!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

FANTASTIC FOUR #168 □ The Thing becomes Ben Grimm and leaves the FF, forcing Reed, Sue, and Johnny to search for a new team member in what is tentatively entitled, "The Replacement." **GUEST-STARRING:** Power Man! (On sale week of December 23)

and The Angel to prevent a "Murder At Malibu!" Be here! (On sale week of December 23)

MARVEL TEAM-UP #43 □ Doctor Doom is drawn back to the Salem Witch Trials to battle the Black Rider in a timeless Spider-Man tome by Boisterous Bill Mantlo and Our Pal Sal Buscema titled, "The Past Gone Mad!" And don't miss the guest-starring grandeur of the Vision and the Scarlet Witch! (On sale December 23)

CAPTAIN MARVEL #43 □ Thanos is alive and well, and The Destroyer doesn't like it one bit! Steve Englehart and Al Milgrom present an earth-shattering Captain Marvel battle called "Destroy! Destroy!" **PLUS:** Rick Jones and the mysterious reappearance of Fawn! (On sale week of December 23)

IRON MAN #84 □ The Freak returns on "The Night of the Walking Bomb!" Will New York survive? Only Len Wein, Herb Trimpe, and Marie Severin know, and they're not telling! They want you to buy the furslugginger book! (On sale week of December 23)

AMAZING ADVENTURES #35 □ Killraven meets "The Twenty-Four Hour Man!"—and it just may be the Warrior of the World's last day on earth! Don McGregor, Craig Russell, and surprise artist Keith Giffen serve up this heart-warming tale of a man

and his slug in the 21st Century (On sale week of December 23)



THE CHAMPIONS #4 □ Chris Claremont pinch-scripts the fourth fabulous team-up of our five fantabulous superheroes as Hercules and the Black Widow battle The Ghost Rider, Iceman,



HOWARD THE DUCK #2 □ Steve Gerber, Frank Brunner, and Steve Leibelohla present the somewhat terrifying and often amusing tale (in which a rapacious rool from outer space takes over the body of Arthur Wilson, would-be hero) which will undoubtedly cause you to "Cry Turnip!" (On sale week of December 23)

JACK'S BACK IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF FOOM! AND NEWS GALORE!



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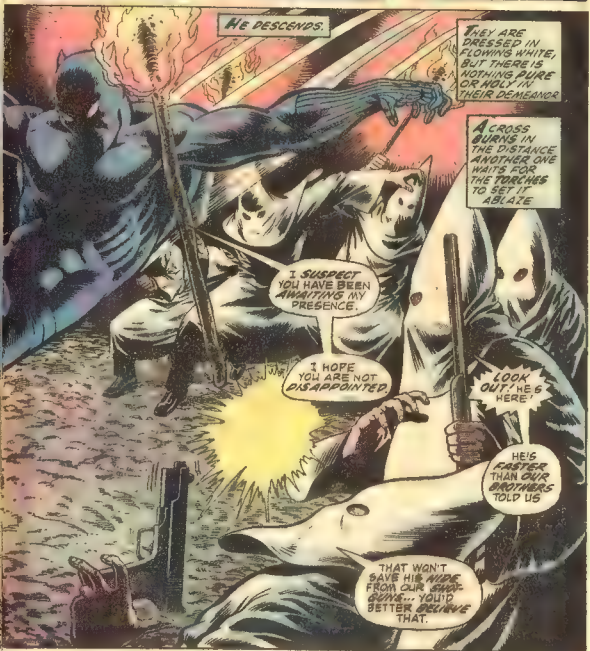
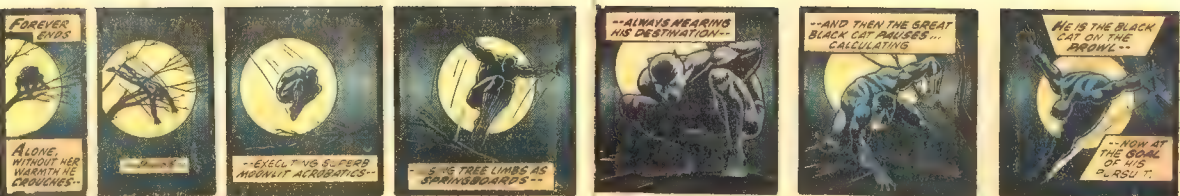
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HE'S A MAN WHO'S DISCRIMINATING, WORLDLY, SOPHISTICATED, FULL OF PASSION AND VIRILITY, WHO LIVES LIFE TO THE HILT. AND YET, DESPITE THIS, HE READS **CRAZY**. HOW COME? BECAUSE HE IS CRAZY! HE'S OUR BRAND NEW LOVABLE EDITOR, PICTURED BELOW. HE HAS TO READ **CRAZY**. IT'S HIS JOB. SO IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A JOB, TOO (JOE JOB--HE'S BEEN LOST FOR DAYS), READ **CRAZY**, AMERICA'S ZANIEST HUMOR MAGAZINE. YOU'LL FIND LAUGHS FROM COVER TO COVER. AND WHO KNOWS...SOME ON THE INSIDE PAGES, TOO!

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(and succeeds with
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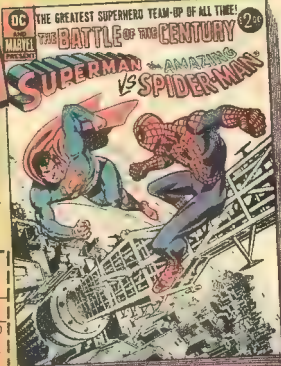
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THE STEADY
SOUND OF A
GRANDFATHER
CLOCK DOMINATES
THE LYNNE HOUSE-
HOLD. FOREVER
MIGHT END.
KEVIN TRY-
BLOOD'S
ILLUSIONS
MIGHT END

T'CHALLA WENT TO
DEVOURING SWAMP.
KEVIN

BUT THE SOUND
OF THE CLOCK
CONTINUES
INEXORABLY.

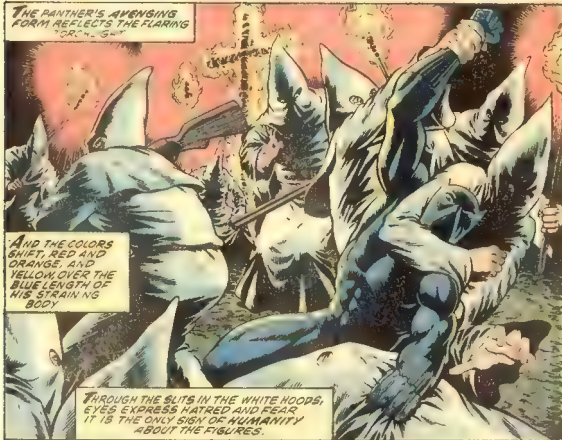


TO CHECK IF THERE REALLY IS
A KLAN MEETING THERE TONIGHT, HMM?



YEAH,
THAT'S MY
NAN GOES
OFF LIKE
HE'S TAK-
ING NOTH-
ING MORE
THAN A
CASUAL
STROLL

THE PANTHER'S AVENGING
FORM REFLECTS THE FLARING
"ORCHID-SHIRT"



AND THE COLORS
SHIFT, RED AND
ORANGE, AND
YELLOW, OVER THE
BLUE LENGTH OF
HIS STRAINING
BODY

THROUGH THE SLITS IN THE WHITE HOODS,
EYES EXPRESS HATRED AND FEAR
IT IS THE ONLY SIGN OF HUMANITY
ABOUT THE FIGURES.

WELL HE'S NOT
TOO MUCH MORE
CASUAL THAN
YOUR DAD.

EVENING,
MR LYNNE

YOU SAY
SOMETHING,
SON?



NEVER
MIND

WHY DO YOU
WANT TO WRITE
THIS PIECE
ABOUT THE
KLAN?

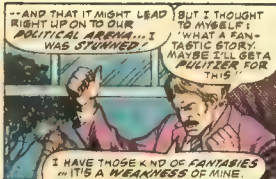
I'M CERTAIN
IT WASN'T
FASCINATION
WITH MY
SISTER ANGELA,
THAT MADE YOU
FOLLOW THRU
ON THE STORY





SHE WAS PART OF IT. WHEN ANGELA FIRST CAME TO MY DESK WITH HER STORY--

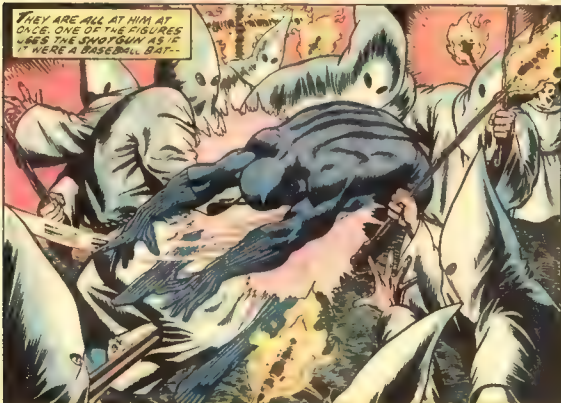
--TELLING ME THE KLAN MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME LARGE LAND MANIPULATION DEALS IN THE AREA--



--AND THAT IT MIGHT LEAD RIGHT UP ON TO OUR POLITICAL ARENA... I WAS STUNNED!

BUT I THOUGHT TO MYSELF: 'WHAT A FANTASTIC STORY. MAYBE I'LL GET A PULITZER FOR THIS'

I HAVE THOSE KIND OF FANTASIES -- IT'S A WEAKNESS OF MINE.



THEY ARE ALL AT HIM AT ONCE. ONE OF THE FIGURES USES THE SHOTGUN AS IF IT WERE A BASEBALL BAT--

--AND SLAMS IT INTO THE PANTHER'S MID-SECTION. THE BURNING TORCHES AND GROSS DIM BEFORE HIS EYES

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PANTHER CONSIDERS THAT QUITE POSSIBLY HE MADE A MISTAKE BY ENTERING THIS FRAY SO EMOTIONALLY.

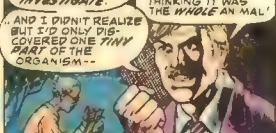
I HAD THOSE KIND OF FANTASIES WHEN I STARTED SINGING. THAT I'D END UP ON STAGE SIDE BY SIDE WITH ELLA FITZGERALD

BUT WHAT YOUR SISTER WAS TELLING ME ABOUT SOUNDED AS IF IT COULD BE REAL.

THERE WASN'T ANY FANTASY INVOLVED IN WHAT I'D LEARNED ONCE I STARTED TO INVESTIGATE.

--LIKE FINDING THE FOOT OF AN ELEPHANT, AS IN THE OLD FABLE, AND, THINKING IT WAS THE WHOLE ANIMAL

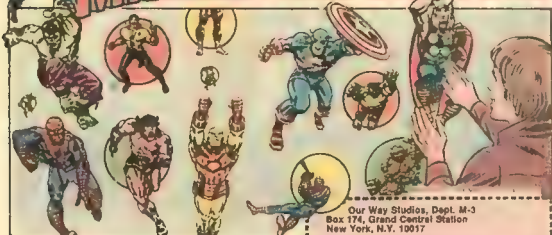
.. AND I DIDN'T REALIZE BUT I'D ONLY DISCOVERED ONE TINY PART OF THE ORGANISM--



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ON TOP OF THAT, OTHER PEOPLE
AROUND ME... FRIENDS...
RELATIVES... PEOPLE I
WORKED WITH--

--THEY ALL ASKED
THE SAME QUES-
TION: WHY DO YOU
WANT TO WRITE
THIS PIECE?

AND I WAS STUNNED
AGAIN. MY CAPACITY FOR
BEING STUNNED IS ENDLESS,
I GUESS. MAYBE IT IS.

I DIDN'T
THINK IT WAS A
QUESTION THAT
HAD TO BE ASKED
I THOUGHT IT WAS
OBVIOUS WHY I
WAS GOING TO
WRITE THIS
STORY

ONE AGAINST THE MULTITUDES

THE FLAMES TWIST
AND TOSS OVER THE
TWISTING AND TOSS-
ING FIGURES STROBE-
LIGHT BATTLE!

THE FLAMES!
GLOW LENDS A BARBA-
ROUS ATMOS-
PHERE TO THE
BRUTALITY. THE
FLESH POUNDS
AT OTHER
FLESH

WOOD BATTERS FLESH
TO UGLY WELTS

METAL BARS CLUB
FLESH TO NUMBNESS.

FLESH WOUNDS THAT
SPILL BLOOD

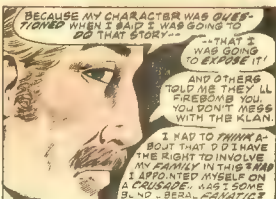
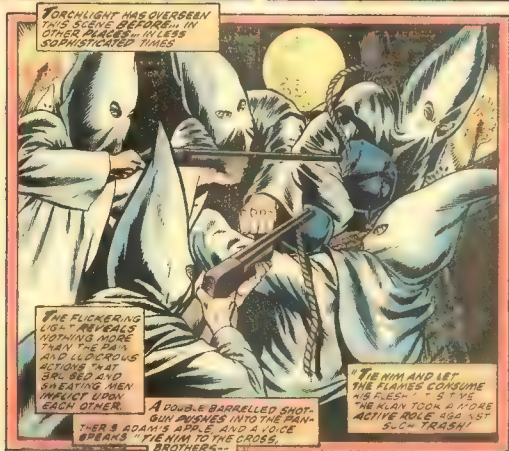
SOMETHING WRONG WAS HAPPENING, AND
I DISCOVERED IT... AND THE IDEALISM THAT
HADN'T WITHERED AWAY IN ME ROSE UP AND
SAID, "BLAST IT, WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS CORRUPTION."

I STILL
BELIEVE IN
THIS
COUNTRY

I KNOW THAT'S UNFASHION-
ABLE THESE DAYS... AND
SOMETIMES... KNOWING
MUCH OF OUR HISTORY...
I WONDER WHY I
STILL BELIEVE.

BUT I
KNOW
WHY!

I BELIEVE
IN THE FAIRY
TALES... THE
MYTHS I WAS
TAUGHT IN
SCHOOL... THE
VALUES THIS
COUNTRY WAS
SUPPOSED TO
STAND FOR



A KALEIDOSCOPE OF KINETIC KIBITZING AND KOOKY KOMMENTARY KENNED TO KINDLE YOUR KARMA!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey group, let's talk about Cons. Have you noticed how they've been proliferating? (Marry, tell Irv Forbush to relax—it isn't a naughty word!) It seems that every time you turn around someone is having a Comicbook Fan Convention somewhere—and nothing could make us happier! It's about time this country really got into culture! And now, here's an earth-shaking item for our "Don't Say I Didn't Warn Ya" department. For all of you who'll be in the Florida area the middle of this month (December), Yours Truly will be a guest of honor at the big, new Miami Con to be held at the Americana Hotel in Miami Beach from December 17th through the following weekend. I'll also be on hand for the Creation Con at New York's Commodore Hotel on January 3rd—so all non-believers have time to get out of town! But, the biggest kuck of all, of course, will be the second annual Mighty Marvel Con which will be held at the selfsame Commodore Hotel here in Fun City during Easter Week! Okay—that's it! Adjust your calendars accordingly and set your time-tables—you know how I hate talking to an empty auditorium. (Especially when it answers back!)

And now, a tip to all you frantic ones who complain about the difficulty of finding your favorite Marvel mags on sale when you want 'em. If you miss out on some of our minor masterpieces because your dealer just doesn't receive enough copies to meet the demand, here's what to do. Ask your proud purveyor of Marvel magic for the name of the wholesaler from whom he buys his magazines. Then, call or write that selfsame wholesaler, demanding that he supply more copies of Marvel Comics to your long-suffering dealer. Yep, your letters and phone calls will let 'em hear the thunderous voices of Marveldom Assembled, as peace and contentment settle once more o'er the ranks of comicbookdom throughout our fair land.

And now, it's back to the ol' typewriter with ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS comfortably nestled upon the best-seller lists, and SON OF OBIGINS rapidly racing to overtake it, it's time to start work on the third book in our never-ending collectors

...you hear what that gonna be called But—I've something for next time, again, remember—freeze if you take it cum grano savis

Excelsior

Stan

ITEM! As winter approacheth, and the snows do fall 'pon the trampled earth, mighty-thewed beasts of burden burrow into the deepest, dank caves ready for the long hibernation ahead. Fortunately for you, Faithful One, the burdened beasts of your batty bullpen can barely take the time for a quick snooze, let alone a five-month shut-eye, which is our sneaky way of telling you that Mighty Marvel is on the move again! We'll get into some of our new projects in a paragraph or three, but let us tell ya about a couple of more physical moves—namely cross-country and county Take Riotous RCH BUCKLER, the FANTASTIC FOUR's penciler supreme, for one. Not only has Rich taken to work on a whole slew of our favori-n' covers, but he's also moved back to the Big Apple just to be closer to the home of our boisterous bookbusters! And according to Newton's law—every action requires an opposite reaction, so TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA has packed his bags and typing paper and made his long trek back to the wids of Cleveland, where he will pen the awe-inspiring adventures of everyone's favorite cycle-star, the GHOST RIDER! And guess who's taking the biggest move of 'em all? Right on the first try—Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART, who's moved from being a bashful bachelor to the marital merriment of married life. We'd congratulate you, Steve, but the real congrats go to MARIE-THERESE BEACH, for not only putting up with your complete Marvel Collection, but all those blamed AVENGERS who keep popping in to proofread your paperwork.

ITEM! As for some of those other moves we sorta hinted at a moment ago, well, this is the big month for a couple of dutiful debuts. Let's roll out the red carpet and give a great big Marvel welcome to the long-demanded arrival of The Guardians Of The Galaxy, appearing in each and every issue of MARVEL PRESENTS. STEVE (Baby) GERBER and MIGHTY AL MILGROM pulled out all the stops with this galaxy-busting premiere story. So, join Starhawk and company for a voyage Star Trek never even dreamed of taking. And, while you're rocketing off with the Guardians, it wouldn't hurt to take a slight detour earthward for a peek behind the pages of MARVEL CHILLERS, where a certain wondrous Were-woman named Tigra is making her soul-shattering debut. We don't want to say that even our over-worked mailmen had to finally give in, but your filth'n letters praising Tigra's appearances in GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF and MONSTERS UNLEASHED are still crowding us out of our under-sized offices.

ITEM! And while we're introducing new artists to your beleaguered Bullpen, let's say hey to Fightin' FRANK THORNE, whose radiant renderings of a certain She-Devil with a sword will be popping out the bleary eyes of more than one love-struck Marvelite. Take a peek behind the pages of MARVEL FEATURE starring Red Sonja and see for yourself. And, while we're mentioning one barbanan, it only stands to reason to mention a few more. If you haven't seen it yet, check out the pages of CONAN, where the epic tale of the beautiful, BBH has begun. ROBERT E. HOWARD

lans have been clamoring for this classic story for years, and now it's here—as only Mighty Marvel can present it. Big JOHN BUSCEMA and Socko STEVE GAN handle the art! And lastly, if ya promise not to tell anyone, we'll let you in on a scintillating secret. In just a few short months we'll be wingin' at you a third RED HEAD that you just may have heard of. What was it now—? Oh yeah—the guy's name is KULL THE DESTROYER, and the Bullpenner penning his tales will be none other than Rascal y ROY THOMAS, who also scripts the other two battlers above. Which just may explain why our Editor Emeritus has taken to carrying his own broadsword strapped to his hip.

ITEM! We've always heard that two's company and three's a crowd, but this is getting ridiculous. If you've been following the frantic adventures of the FANTASTIC FOUR, THE AVENGERS, THE INHUMANS, and THE SONS OF THE TIGER, you just may be familiar with the name Georgious GEORGE PEREZ. 'Ssee, unlike most artists who pop a mountain of Exedrin's just thinking about drawing our group strips, George seems to thrive on them, relishing each and every pane, and placing as many team members as he can all over the place. We don't know about you, George, but we're sure of one thing—George? Will someone wake up George, please?

WE'RE NUMBER ONE



WHO IS HE?

Keep watchin'. Marvelite the answer is forthcoming

SPIDER-MAN™



AND THE CUPCAKE CAPER

PETER PARKER IS IN MARY JANE WATSON'S APARTMENT WHEN SUDDENLY HE SEES A FAMILIAR ENEMY.

M.J., YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR A MINUTE

YOU HAVE THIS THING, TIGER, AND I HATE IT. EVERY TIME THERE'S TROUBLE, YOU DISAPPEAR.



RELAX, M. J., ALL I WANT TO DO IS GET SOME MILK TO HAVE WITH THESE HOSTESS CUP CAKES.

SURE, PETER, ANYTHING TO AVOID REALITY BUT AT LEAST THIS TIME, YOU LEFT ME WITH A REALLY DELICIOUS SNACK. DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE, CHOCOLATY FING, CREAMY FILLING.



I HATE HAVING MARY JANE THINK I'M A COWARD, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY I CAN SLIP INTO MY SPIDER-MAN ROLE, AND ONLY SPIDEY CAN HANDLE... MAN MOUNTAIN MARKO!



DON'T LOOK NOW, MARKO, BUT THE MOUNTAIN JUST BECAME A MOLEHILL.



WEBHEAD, WE DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, BUT WE SURE APPRECIATE THE HELP!

THANKS, GUYS. MEANWHILE I'VE GOT A QUART OF GRADE-A TO DELIVER.



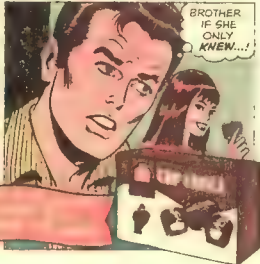
SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG, M. J., BUT I-ER-- GOT A LITTLE BIT DISTRACTED.

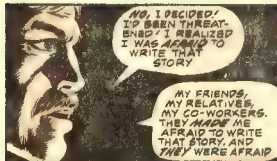


NO SWEAT, PETER, THE HOSTESS CUP CAKES YOU LEFT WITH ME WERE A LOT MORE REWARDING TO ME THAN YOU'VE EVER BEEN!



BROTHER IF SHE ONLY KNEW...



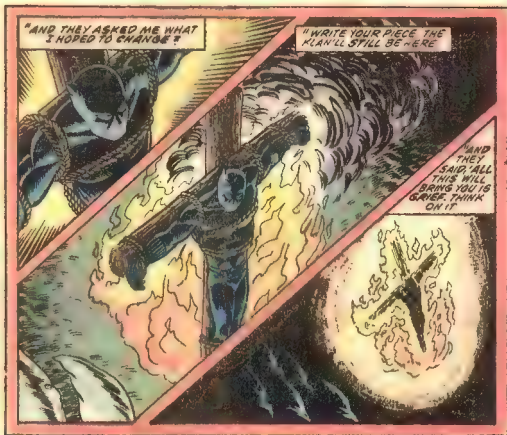


NO, I DECIDED!
I'D BEEN THREAT-
ENED! I REALIZED
I WAS AFRAID TO
WRITE THAT
STORY

MY FRIENDS,
MY RELATIVES,
MY CO-WORKERS.
THEY MADE ME
AFRAID TO WRITE
THAT STORY, AND
THEY WERE AFRAID



AND I THOUGHT,
"GODD LORD, WHAT
IS AMERICA
COMING TO?" WASN'T
EVEN FREEDOM
OF SPEECH, WHICH
I TOOK TO IN-
CLUDE THE WRIT-
TEN WORD,
INVIOABLE?



"AND THEY ASKED ME WHAT
I HOPED TO CHANGE?"

"WRITE YOUR PIECE THE
PLAN'LL STILL BE HERE

"AND
THEY
SAID, 'ALL
THIS WILL
BRING YOU IS
GRIEF. THINK
ON IT

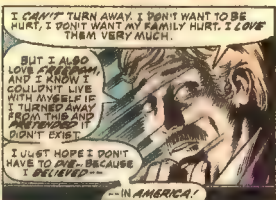


DO YOU THINK
I WANT TO BE
HURT? DO YOU
THINK I WANT
TO LIVE IN FEAR?



I DON'T WANT TO BE
SCARED... BUT SOME-
BODY... SOMEWHERE...
MADE A TERRIBLE
MISTAKE

THEY MADE ME
A MORAL MAN.



I CAN'T TURN AWAY. I DON'T WANT TO BE
HURT, I DON'T WANT MY FAMILY HURT. I LOVE
THEM VERY MUCH.

BUT I ALSO
LOVE FREEDOM,
AND I KNOW I
COULDN'T LIVE
WITH MYSELF IF
I TURNED AWAY
FROM THIS AND
PRETENDED IT
DIDN'T EXIST.

I JUST HOPE I DON'T
HAVE TO DIE-- BECAUSE
I BELIEVED--

--IN AMERICA!

A CROSS BURNING DARKLY... BLACKENING THE NIGHT!

JUNGLE RE-ACTIONS!

NO ADULTS ALLOWED! BY THE JUNGLE ACTION! NEW YORK NY 10013

Seeing as this will be one of the last letters pages dealing with "Panther's Rage," we feel that it is fitting to include an in-depth analysis by that in-depth critic who has analyzed the Panther novel since its beginnings. So without further fanfare, let's let Rambunctious Ralph Macchio, letter correspondent supreme, take over.

Go ahead, Ralph. The stage is yours.

Dear Don and Billy,

Assessing "Panther's Rage" up to and including its penultimate chapter, issue #17, is an enormous temptation for one to become lost in the mire of extended metaphor. If art is the shorthand of reality, as I've so often thought, then perhaps the best way any artistic endeavor can be "summed up" is through simply allowing that work to react on you, and let the perceptions flow effortlessly, without the stifling straitjacket of searching for meanings or messages; for if the artist has been successful in his prime function, which is communication, then the observing participant, if he has opened his mind, need not worry that he has missed the figurative boat somewhere along the way.

There are several mutually operative antagonisms extant in "Panther's Rage" which are really at the core of the struggle in Wakanda. We have three major figures in the drama, two of whom, Killmonger and T'Challa, are present throughout most of the series prominently, and the final, Kantu, who emerges as a vital link in the climax, though is not seen with the constant regularity of the previous two. Perhaps the most important relationship in the series is between Erik Killmonger and the Black Panther. Killmonger has stated clearly on several occasions that he cares almost nothing for what the Panther has done or will be doing to extinguish his revolutionary flame. He has a zealous, single-minded determination that will allow no obstacle to stand in his way. As a counterpoint to this, is T'Challa, a man besieged by doubts and fears which have whittled away his motivations even as we are viewing him. He has doubts about his own identity, not only as a chieftain and ruler, but as a man as well. He is a man attempting to come to intellectual grips with the basic questions of existence, only to find his emotional makeup reacting to situations with almost inexplicable passions. T'Challa is the perfect counterbalance to the awesome, monolithic determination of his human adversary, Erik Killmonger. While attempting to stem the tide of an impending revolution, T'Challa is also embarking on an odyssey of self-discovery which will ultimately lead toward an acceptance of his fears, though not necessarily a conquering of them. The age-old struggle between those who are immovable juggernauts, trampling all in their desires for power, and those who question every move they make, thus giving the appearance of weakness on the surface, while actually strengthening their internal fiber for conflict, has been played out upon the Wakandan stage under the expert choreography of Don McGregor.

We now have all the important figures, save one, aligned on the scale of conflict for figurative measurement. The missing figure is the child, Kantu. When Erik Killmonger is pushed off the precipice in the climax, he is not pushed by either the Black Panther or Kantu. He is forced over the edge by the basic id portion of the Wakanda chieftain, T'Challa, for in truth, that is what Kantu really is. T'Challa has essentially come full circle, and his final conflict with Killmonger will indeed "give our battle a sense of symmetry." T'Challa the man, has come to an understanding of things he did not possess two years ago, and this fortifies him. And it is the "Panther of old" who makes the attack upon Killmonger, still, this is not enough to defeat his adversary, something beyond confidence and retribution itself—hate, is necessary.

And the ideal vessel for such a pure, primal emotion, is the very antithesis of intellectual probing and moral uncertainty, a nine-year-old child, reacting very much as T'Challa himself did when he had been given the opportunity of revenge upon the man who had killed his own father. Hate cannot be intellectualized or conceptualized, it merely exists and can only be dealt with on a primal level beyond the reach of the mind. T'Challa and Kantu are inexplicably entwined, for each is but a different side of the same coin, with each emerging dominant in response to a given situation. The Panther's rage achieved its consummation through a circular journey which took the protagonist from ignorance and adversity to recognition and response. Perhaps it could have been equally well titled: "Panther's Progress."

So many people have worked so long and hard to make this a truly memorable serial that will long stand as one of the finest achievements of the Marvel Age. But heartfelt and personal thanks must go to long-suffering Don McGregor, who had the confidence in this medium as well as his audience to attempt such an ambitious project. We all love you Don, and wish you nothing but the best as you continue to set precedents in the furthering of your illustrated novel. The "Panther's Rage" series has done more than take us into the inner workings of an African society or a royal chieftain's head, it has allowed us to follow the evolution of a rather remarkable and unique contribution to the small list of people who help ensure that popular culture will have its share of timeless achievements. Don, thanks—for everything.

Ralph Macchio
188 Wilson Drive
Cresskill, NJ 07626

Don thanks you, Ralph, for taking the time to evaluate and write your incisive conclusions. And Don claims that he's only been long-suffering since 1975, which he says hasn't been the best century he's ever lived through.

On the serious side, Don was astounded at your insight into the progression of the Panther novel from its initial stages on through its final chapters. You detail many of the transitions in the characters, especially the Panther, and obviously understand the interactions among them.

NEXT ISSUE: "A Cross Burning Darkly, Blackening the Night!" Some of the finest Billy Graham graphics yet. And it might be a good thing they haven't yet changed our title from JUNGLE ACTION to the BLACK PANTHER, because no one is sure if our Jungle King can get himself out of this trap.

And stay with us, People, because 1976 is going to be the Panther's year. Just wait! We introduce the merely magnificent character called Wind Eagle. And for the Bicentennial, you'll actually witness the Panther in the Reconstruction Period, fighting in the aftermath of the Civil War. How do we pull that one off? Be with us for our upcoming issues and find out.

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Others also enjoy her playing. Mrs. Johanson reports. She plays for herself to relax after a trying day, and for her husband when he's tired. She also plays for friends when she goes to parties. "In a sentence," she says, "it's the most soul-satisfying thing that has ever happened to me."

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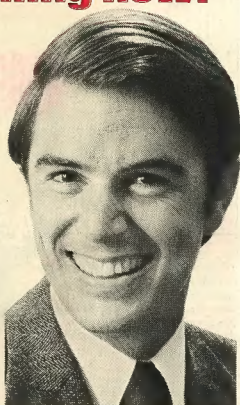
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